

29th March 1928]

*Admission of Adi-Dravida children into Cherukunnu Board High School, Malabar.*

\* 1810 Q.—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Cherukunnu Board High School in Malabar, Adi-Dravida children are not admitted, and if so, what are Government proposing to do in the matter?

A.—The Government have no information, but they have called for it.

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"If, on receipt of the report, the hon. Minister finds that this disability exists, will he take steps to remove it?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is a hypothetical question."

**Local Boards**

*Action taken on the resolution regarding the introduction of a system of voting that will ensure secrecy among illiterate voters.*

\* 1811 Q.—Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state what is the result of action taken by the Government on the resolution of this House passed on 31st March 1927 regarding the introduction of a system of voting that will ensure secrecy even among illiterate voters?

A.—The question of securing secrecy of voting by illiterate voters was placed before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee in August 1927. The Committee were unable to agree upon any secret method of voting and were of opinion that the existing system should be continued. The matter was accordingly dropped.

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA:—"May I know what measures were discussed by the Committee?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The proposals made on the floor of the House by Mr. Biswanath Das and others were considered by the Committee and they thought that it was not feasible to have a satisfactory solution of this vexed problem."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA:—"May I know what were the methods that were discussed?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"May I know what action was taken by the Government on the resolution for the adoption of coloured boxes and symbols to maintain the secrecy of voting?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"This matter was discussed by the Local Bodies Advisory Committee, which thought that it was not feasible to adopt those methods."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Was it before or after the passing of the resolution by the Council?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The hon. Member presumes too much; it was only after the resolution was passed by this House."

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Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—“ May I know whether any report was called for from Bombay and Mysore where this system is prevailing ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ No, Sir.”

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—“ Do the Government propose to drop the matter there ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ Government have already decided that no further action need be taken.”

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—“ May I know if the existing method of voting is better than the one suggested ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ Certainly.”

*Issue of badges for bus-drivers by the President, Chingleput District Board.*

\* 1812 Q.—Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of the Chingleput District Board issued badges for bus-drivers and conductors on payment of a fee of Rs. 4 per set and insisted upon their wearing them ;

(b) under what authority the President issued the badges and under what powers he insisted on the drivers and conductors wearing or carrying them ; and

(c) whether this practice has been abandoned, and if so, when and why ?

A.—(a) To the first part of this question the answer is ‘yes,’ to the second part ‘no.’

(b) The district board sanctioned the provision of badges. They may be purchased at the option of bus-owners.

(c) No.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know whether it is competent for the district board to introduce these badges ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ That is calling for an opinion ”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I know under what authority or power the district board has introduced these badges ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ There is no question of authority or power at all ; the board did it under the residuary powers they possess.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I know whether these conductors and bus-owners are prosecuted if they do not purchase these badges ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ No, Sir, the purchase of these things is optional.”